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# VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS

NO. 3 00105  
JUL 75/CDC



00105

A RAFT RIDES THE SWIFT CURRENTS OF THIS BIZARRE PREHISTORIC RIVER...

IT'S NO USE, DAD!  
I THINK THIS RIVER  
LEADS BACK TO THE  
LAGOON WHERE WE  
STARTED!

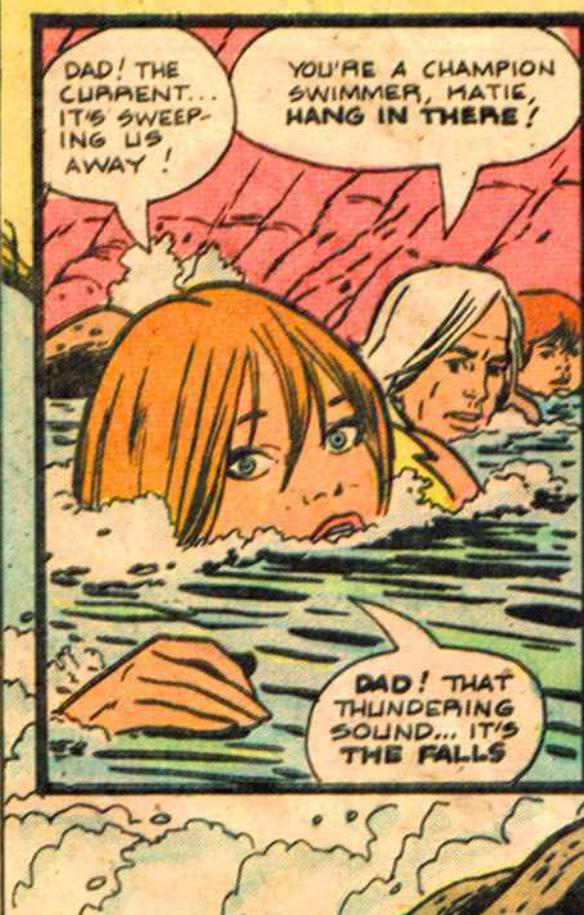
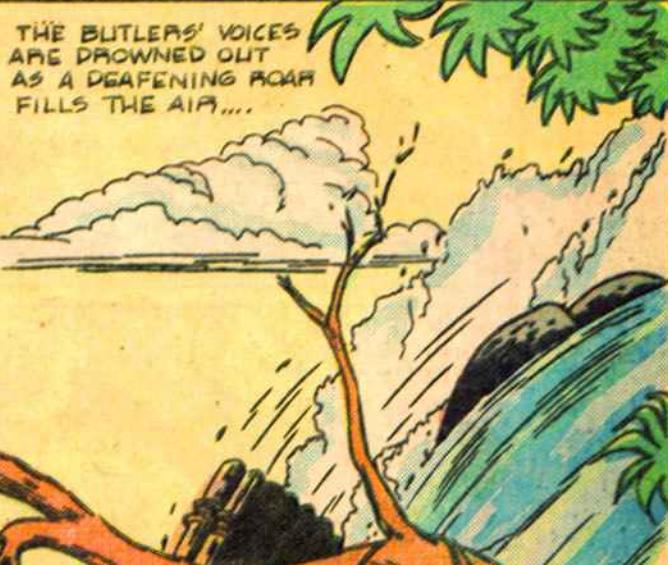
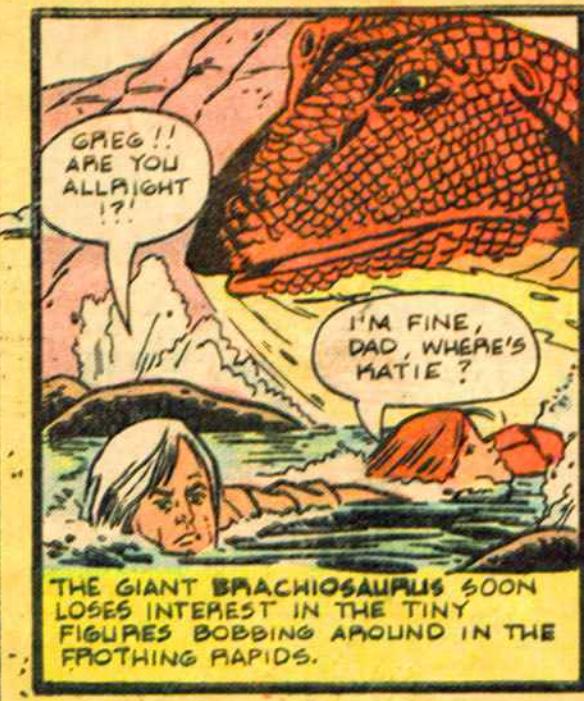
ALLRIGHT, KIDS! LET'S GO  
BACK TO THE CAVE, BEFORE  
YOUR MOTHER STARTS TO WORRY!

GEE, DAD! WE MANAGED TO FIND OUR WAY  
INTO THIS VALLEY.... SO, WE SHOULD BE  
ABLE TO FIND OUR WAY  
OUT!

YEAH, I COULD SURE  
USE A CHOCOLATE  
MILK SHAKE OR TWO!

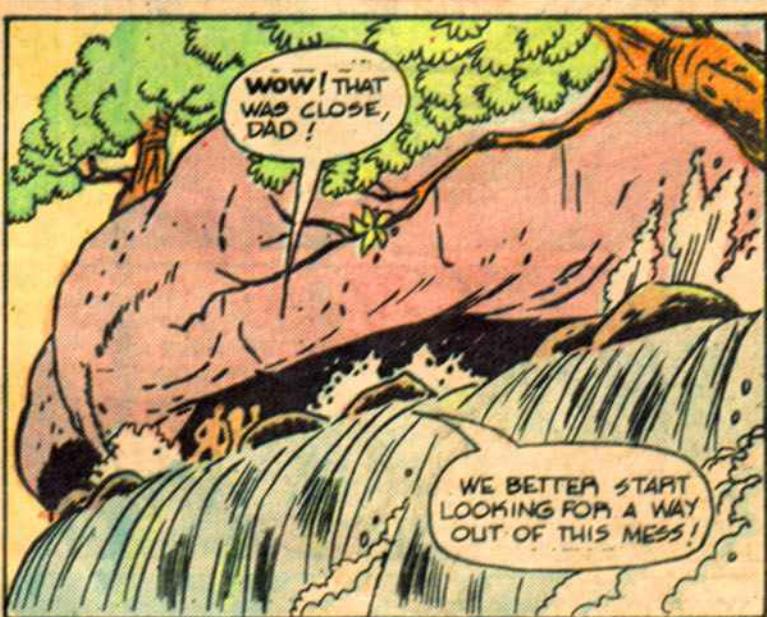
SUDDENLY...

LOOK OUT,  
KIDS!

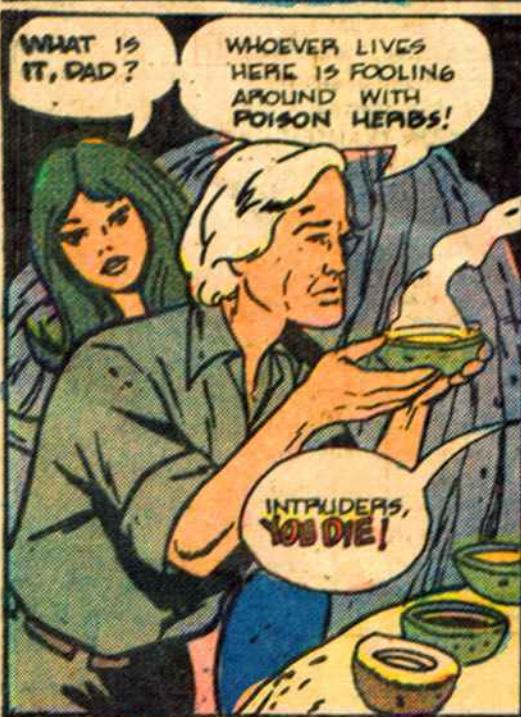


VALLEY  
OF THE  
DINOSAURS

THE CHALLENGE OF  
**MATA-ZIN**



THE BUTLER'S GAZE AT THE INSIDE OF THE LONG DARK TUNNEL ERODED BY TIME AND NATURE AND STARE IN DISBELIEF AT THE HORRORS THEY FACED!



CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

YOU ARE JOHN BUTLER...  
YOU COME FROM STRANGE  
FARAWAY LAND....

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY  
ARE CASTAWAYS IN OUR  
VALLEY... YOU HAVE BEEN  
BEFRIENDED BY GOROM  
AND HIS FAMILY! NOW,  
YOU BRING A CURSE ON  
THE ENTIRE TRIBE!

THAT'S FINE, MATA-ZIN... CURSE ALL  
YOU LIKE, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE  
TO EXPLAIN ALL THE STRANGE  
DEATHS IN THIS CAVE!

I, MATA-ZIN,  
CURSE YOU,  
JOHN BUTLER!

PLEASE, DAD... THIS  
IS NO TIME TO  
PLAY DETECTIVE!

MATA-ZIN HAS  
FOUND THE  
SECRETS OF  
LIFE AND DEATH!

GO! NOW! OR I  
SHALL SEND MY  
DRAGONS  
AGAINST YOU!

L-LET'S GO, DAD!... WE  
KNOW WHEN WE'RE  
NOT WANTED!

I'VE NEVER HAD  
ANYONE SIT HIS  
LIZARD ON ME!

HUSSSSSS

LATER, BACK AT THE CAVEDWELLERS' CAMP... JOHN BUTLER TELLS GOROM ABOUT MATA-ZIN  
AND THE MYSTERIOUS HAPPENINGS IN THAT CAVERN OF EVIL.

I TELL YOU, GOROM,  
MATA-ZIN IS A DANGEROUS  
MURDERER... AND HE  
SHOULD BE PUT AWAY!

HE IS A POWERFUL WIZARD, JOHN,  
WITH GREAT AND EVIL MAGIC....  
EVERYONE IN THE VALLEY FEARS  
HIM EVEN MORE THAN TYRANNOSAURUS!

TYRANNOSAURUS  
KILLS BY INSTINCT. IF  
HE IS HUNGRY, HE EATS  
WHAT HE HAS KILLED....  
IF NOT, HE KILLS ANYWAY,  
HE SNAPS AND SLASHES AT  
EVERYTHING HE SEES!

BUT EVEN HE WILL  
NEVER SEEK VENGEANCE  
LIKE MATA-ZIN!

FLYING  
PETRANODON

TYRANNOSAURUS REX -  
THE MOST FEARED ANIMAL  
EVER TO WALK THE EARTH.  
HE STOOD TWENTY-FIVE  
FEET TALL WITH POWERFUL  
JAWS AND HUGE SHARP  
TEETH.

SALTOPOSUCHS  
FIRST ANIMAL TO WALK  
ON HIND LEGS AND  
GRASP FOR THINGS.

ANKYLOSAUR  
WAS ARMORED WITH  
SHARP BONEY SPINES.

EVERYONE IN THIS VALLEY  
MUST PAY SOME TRIBUTE  
TO MATA-ZIN!

IT'S THE OL' PROTECTION  
PICKET, DAD, AND THIS  
GUY MATA-ZIN IS SOME  
KINDA STONEAGE GODFATHER!

...MATA-ZIN WILL...  
PUNISH ALL WHO  
REFUSE TO MEET  
HIS DEMANDS!

YOU KNOW I'M  
NO' COWARD,  
JOHN... BUT  
MATA-ZIN'S  
MAGIC IS VERY  
POWERFUL...

HE CAN BRING  
STRANGE AND  
SUDDEN ILLNESS  
TO ANYONE IN  
YOUR FAMILY.

...IT'S NOT  
MAGIC,  
GOROK!

WHEN WE WERE IN MATA-ZIN'S CAVE  
I SAW HIS SECRET OF LIFE AND DEATH  
...IT'S POISON! SOMEHOW HE'S FOUND  
A WAY OF POISONING THE FOOD OF THOSE  
WHO CROSS HIM!... CREATING SEVERE  
ILLNESS...

...AND, FROM AMIDST THE FIRE AND SMOKE EMERGES  
AN OMINOUS FIGURE...



# MATA-ZIN!

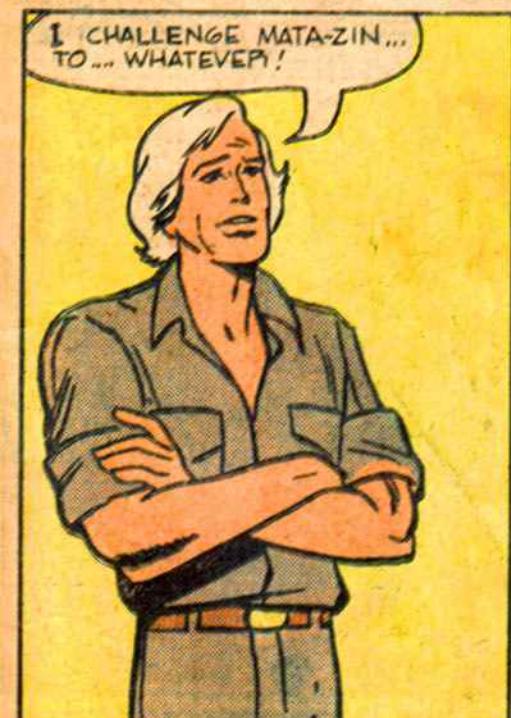




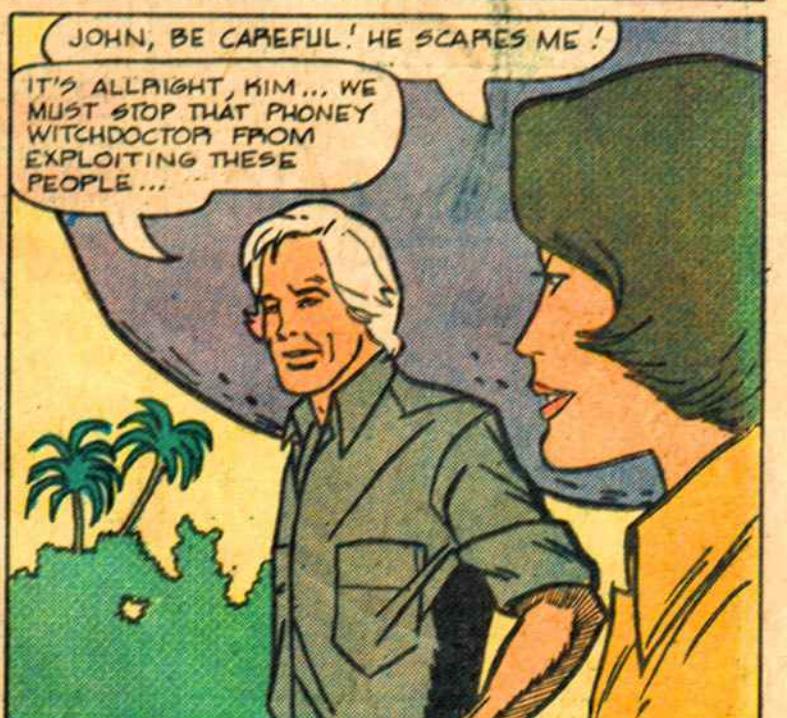
THE STRANGER YOU BEFRIENDED HAS VIOLATED  
THE TEMPLE OF MATA-ZIN!... NOW YOU MUST  
ALL PAY DOUBLE TRIBUTE UNTIL THE  
OFFENDER IS DRIVEN FROM THIS VALLEY!

NO ONE DARES  
TO CHALLENGE  
MATA-ZIN!

WRONG  
AGAIN,  
FELLA!

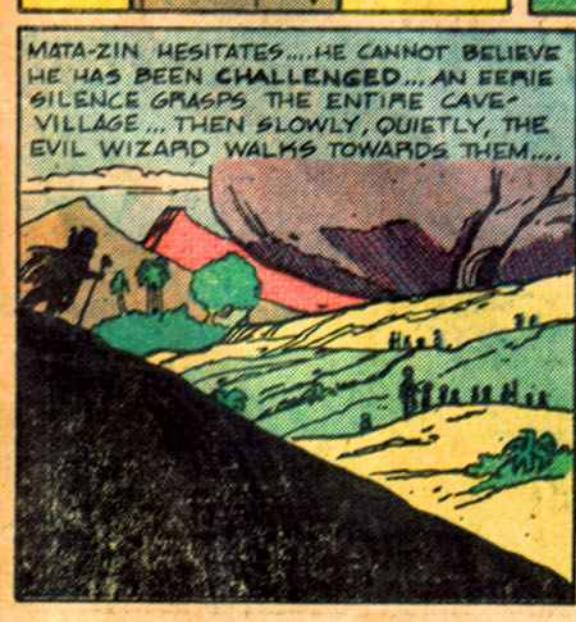


I CHALLENGE MATA-ZIN...  
TO... WHATEVER!

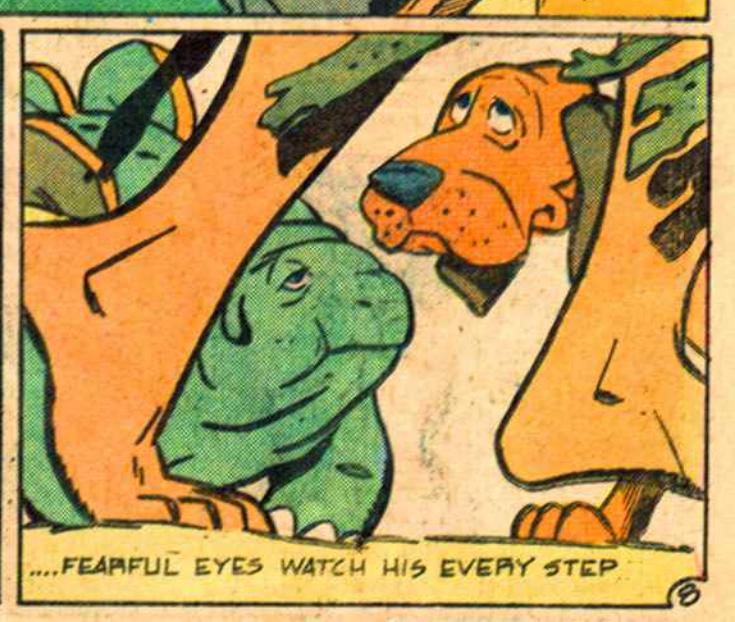


JOHN, BE CAREFUL! HE SCARES ME!

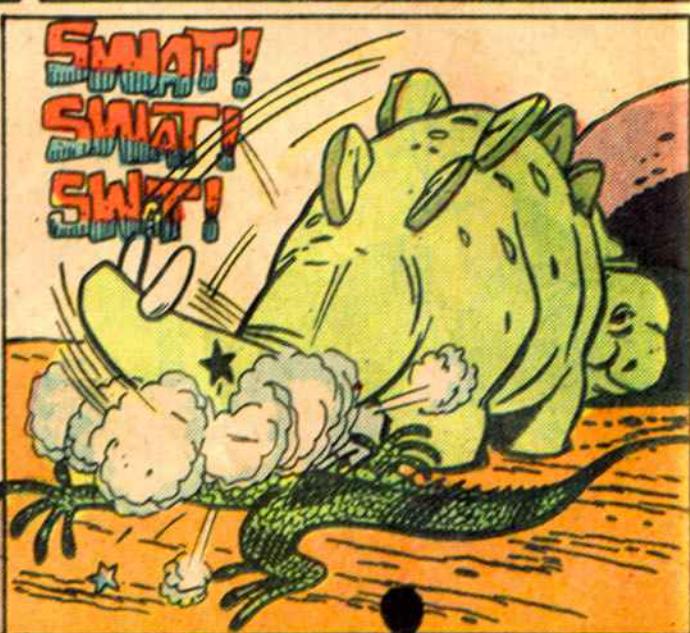
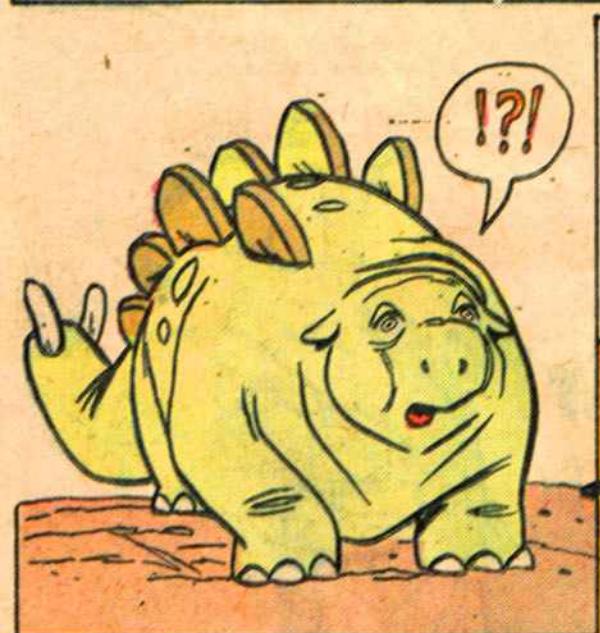
IT'S ALLRIGHT, KIM... WE  
MUST STOP THAT PHONEY  
WITCHDOCTOR FROM  
EXPLOITING THESE  
PEOPLE...

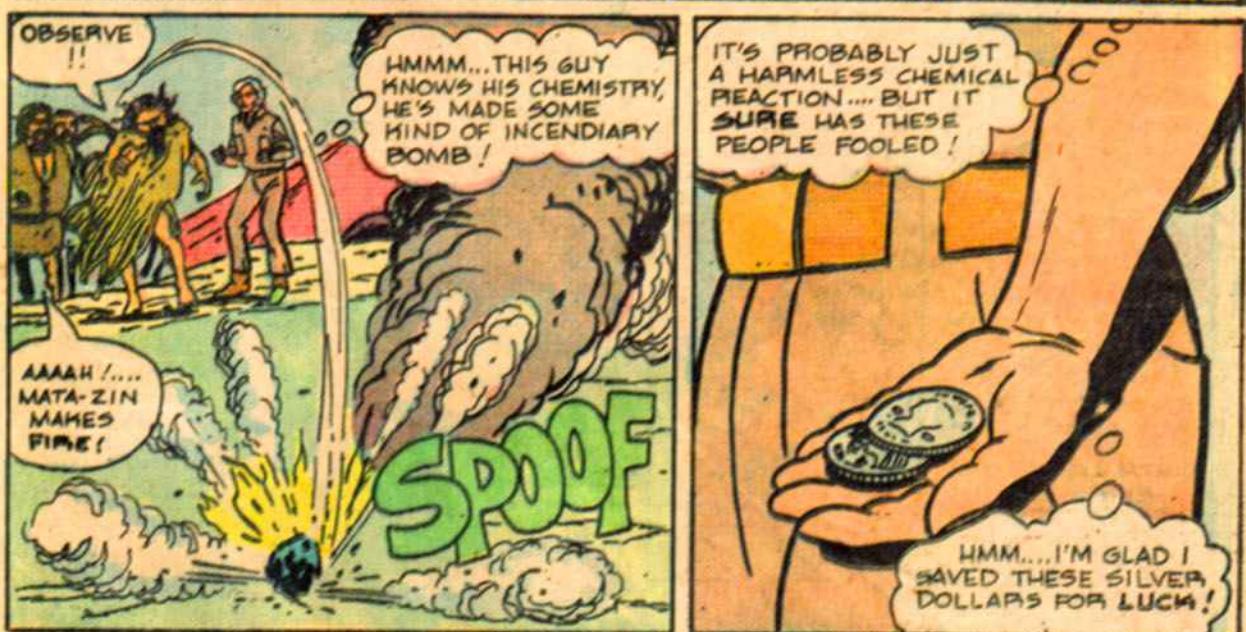
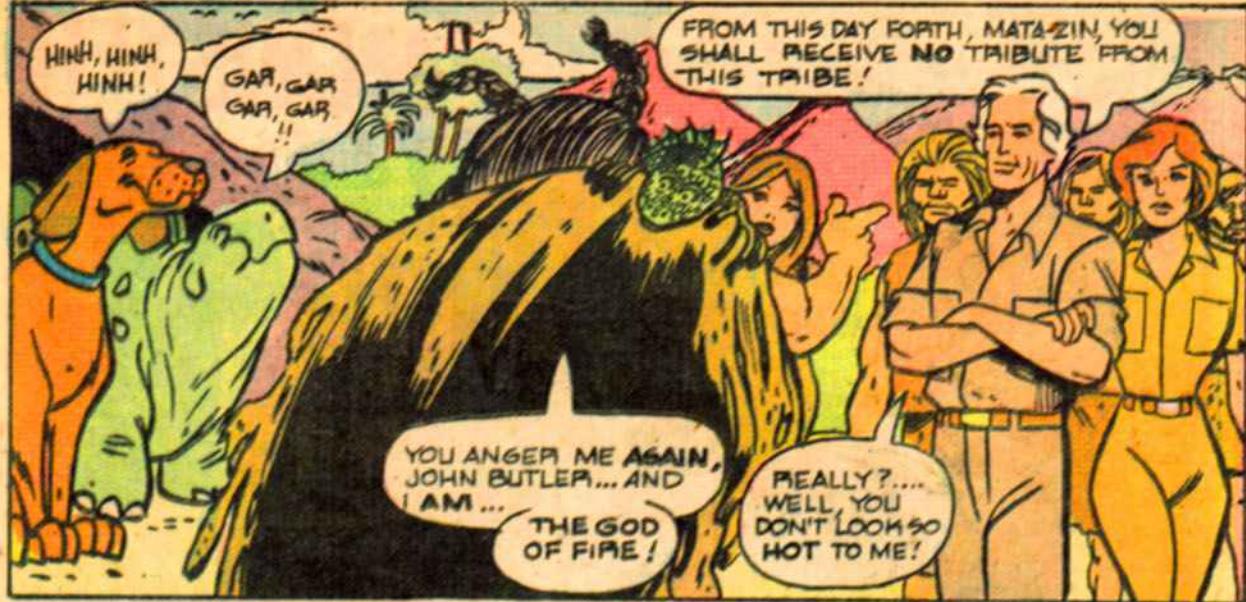


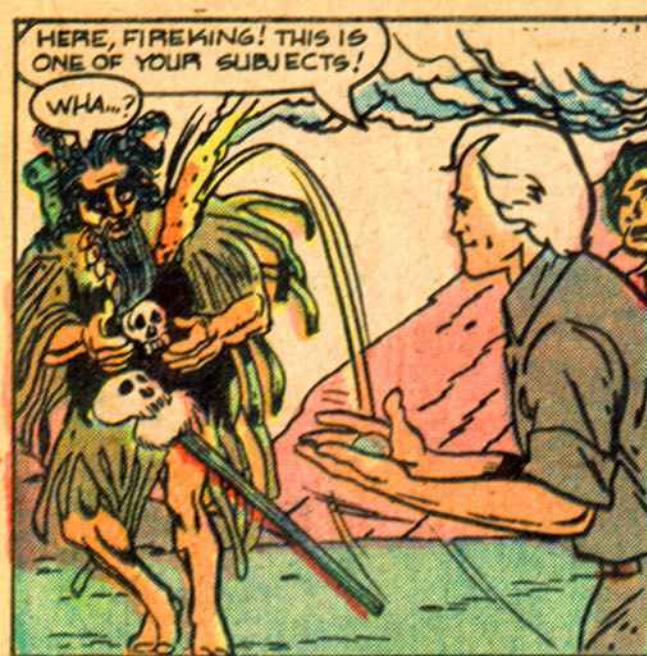
MATA-ZIN HESITATES... HE CANNOT BELIEVE  
HE HAS BEEN CHALLENGED... AN EERIE  
SILENCE GRASPS THE ENTIRE CAVE-  
VILLAGE... THEN SLOWLY, QUIETLY, THE  
EVIL WIZARD WALKS TOWARDS THEM...



...FEARFUL EYES WATCH HIS EVERY STEP.









HIS HANDS TREMBLING WITH  
RAGE, THE SORCERER DIPS A  
QUILL INTO A HORN FILLED  
WITH POISON...



...FROM UNDER HIS TATTERED  
SKINS HE EXTRACTS A  
LONG BLOWGUN AND...



...AIMS THE POISONED BARB



LIKE THE STING OF AN  
INSECT, THE DART BURIES  
UNDER BUTLER'S SKIN



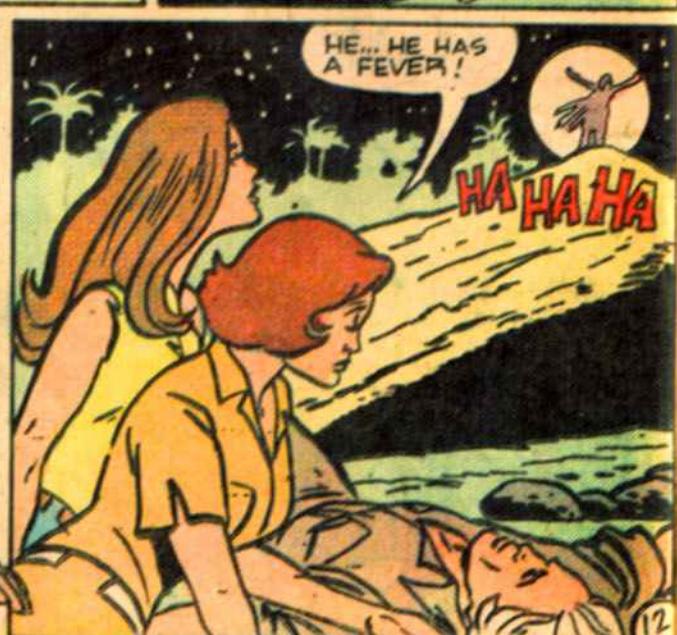
BUTLER'S HEAD BEGINS  
TO SWIM... HE FEELS  
SUDDENLY WEAK...



... HIS HEAD IS NOW THROBBING....  
HIS LEGS CAN NO LONGER  
SUPPORT HIS WEIGHT...

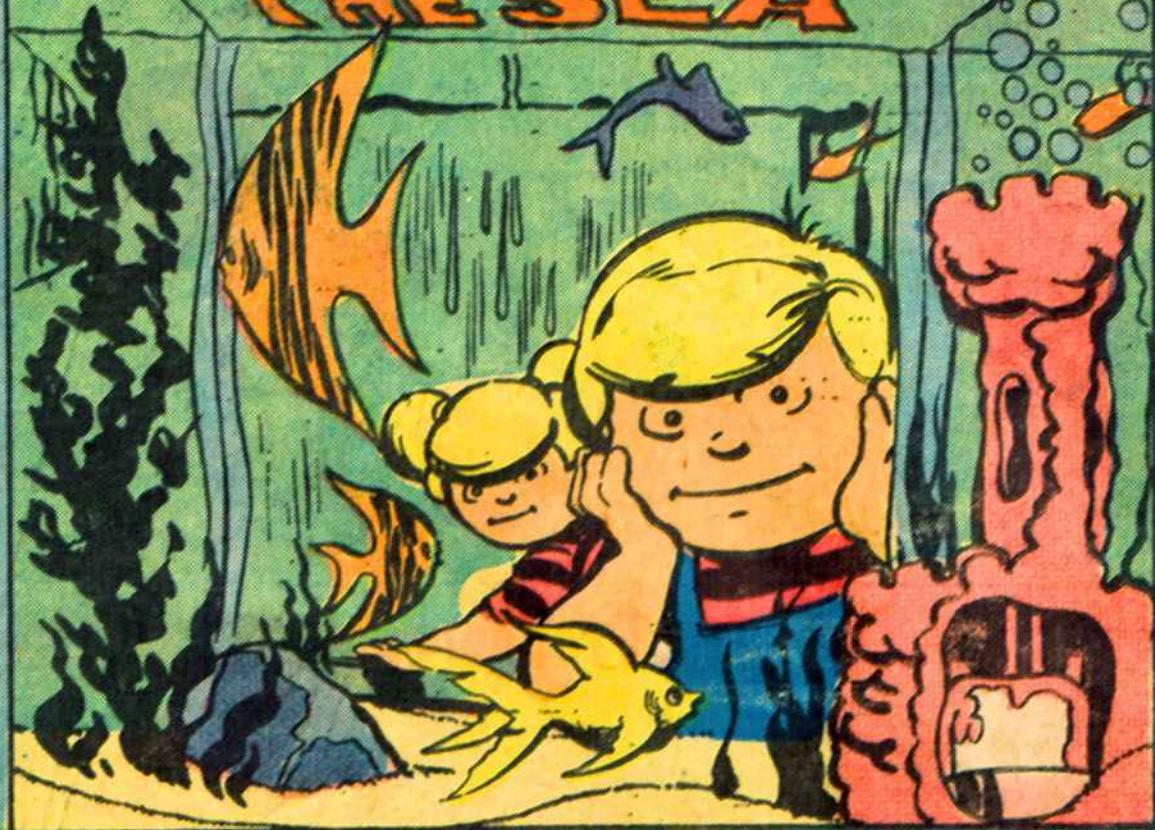


... THEN DARKNESS!



END PART ONE

# VISIT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA



STORY: MICHEAL J. PELLOWSKI ART: JOHN BYRNE

It was raining very hard outside. Big, rain drops were splattering against the picture window in the Smith twins' living room. "This is a terrible thunderstorm!" said Melanie Smith as she looked out of the window at all the deep puddles forming on the sidewalk outside. "It sure is terrible — especially since today is Saturday!" answered her twin brother Morgan. Morgan was sitting on a chair watching the fish in his aquarium. There were many different kinds of multi-colored fish in the tank. "It always rains on the days that we don't have school. I hate being stuck in the house on a Saturday afternoon," replied Melanie.

She walked away from the window and joined her brother over at the fish tank. She looked through the

glass and frightened an orange and black swordtail who was swimming past her. "Fish never have to worry about getting wet when it rains," she said. "It's no fun to be a fish if you're in a fish tank," answered Morgan as he sprinkled a little fish food on top of the water. "If you're in an aquarium, it's like being in the house all the time," he added. "If you're a fish, going outside means taking a swim to the bottom of the ocean," Melanie answered.

"I wonder if all those spooky stories about Davy Jones' locker are true?" muttered Morgan. "Hey! We don't have to stay in the house! We can find out what the bottom of the ocean is like!" exclaimed Melanie. Morgan's eyes twinkled. He smiled. "Of course, the Wonder Wagon! Why didn't I think of that?" he yelled

as he jumped up. "... Because you're a boy!" teased Melanie.

The twins raced out to the garage where they kept the magic, Wonder Wagon hidden. Morgan reached behind some old crates and pulled out the red wagon with the magic symbols painted on it. The wagon was given to them by an old magician. It had the power to take them anywhere they wanted to go and to bring them back when they said the magic words. Morgan got in the front of the wagon. His sister hopped in behind him. "We won't drown will we?" she asked. "The magic of the wagon will give us air to breathe on the ocean bottom," answered Morgan. "We wonder if this wagon can take us to the bottom of the sea?" The twins said shouting the magic phrase.

Suddenly, the wheels of the Wonder Wagon began to spin. Thick smoke covered the wagon and the twins. In a second, the wagon was zooming through space. When the twins looked down, they could see the ocean below them. The Wonder Wagon dipped forward and



dived towards the water. It entered the ocean with a loud splash. The twins were amazed to see that a large, plastic bubble had formed over the wagon protecting them from the water and giving them air to breathe.

"Look at that beautiful fish," said Melanie. She pointed at a gold and red ocean sunfish. The Wonder

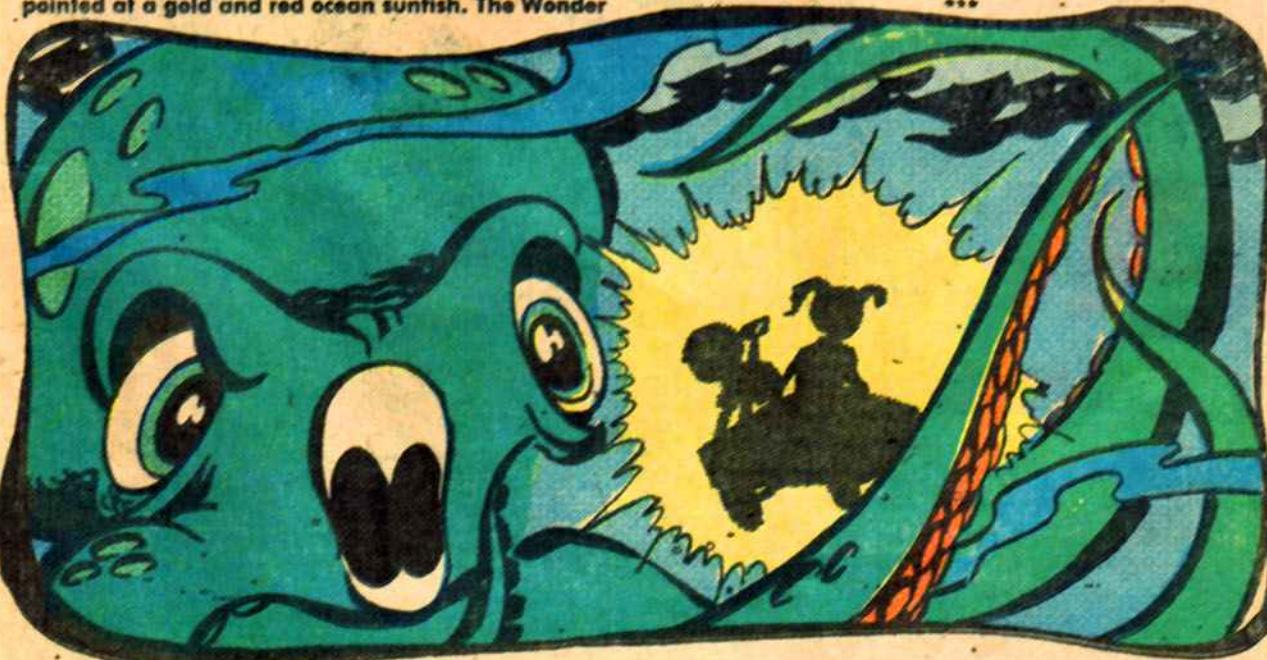
Wagon zoomed past the five foot tall sunfish as the twins headed towards the bottom. They dived past schools of tuna and sardines. Tiny sea horses tried to keep up with the wagon but they weren't fast enough. A playful porpoise circled the twins as they sunk deeper and deeper into the dark ocean. "Holy smokes! I hope the Wonder Wagon's magic is strong enough to fight off sharks!" shouted Morgan. "Why?" asked Melanie. She turned around and saw a gigantic shark swimming after them. She screamed and grabbed onto Morgan as the shark bumped his nose against the



bubble covering the wagon. He tried to bite through it but couldn't. He gave up and swam away.

Finally, the Wonder Wagon settled on the bottom of the ocean. It was very dark and the twins could hardly see. Glowing, electric eels and strange, scary fish swam past them. The twins saw the remains of an old pirate wreck on the bottom of the ocean. Out of a hole in the ship's side came an ugly, giant octopus. It was coming right towards the Wonder Wagon. Its long tentacles curled around the plastic bubble just as Morgan said "I wonder if this wagon can take us home again?" There was a flash of bright light. The wagon disappeared and the octopus was left shaking hands with his own tentacles.

The twins were home again in seconds. They hid the wagon and walked into the house. "I was just going to look for you. It's time for dinner," said their mother when she saw them. "What are we having?" asked Morgan. "Fried fish!" she answered.



NOW SEE HOW STRONG YOUR MAGIC IS, JOHN BUTLER... HA HA HA THE CURE TO YOUR ILLNESS WILL BE IN THE DEPTHS OF MY CAVE!  
HA HA ....

SHOW YOUR COURAGE, JOHN BUTLER... NO ONE ELSE DARES TO ENTER MATA-ZIN'S CAVE!

PART  
TWO

# KATIE'S CHALLENGE

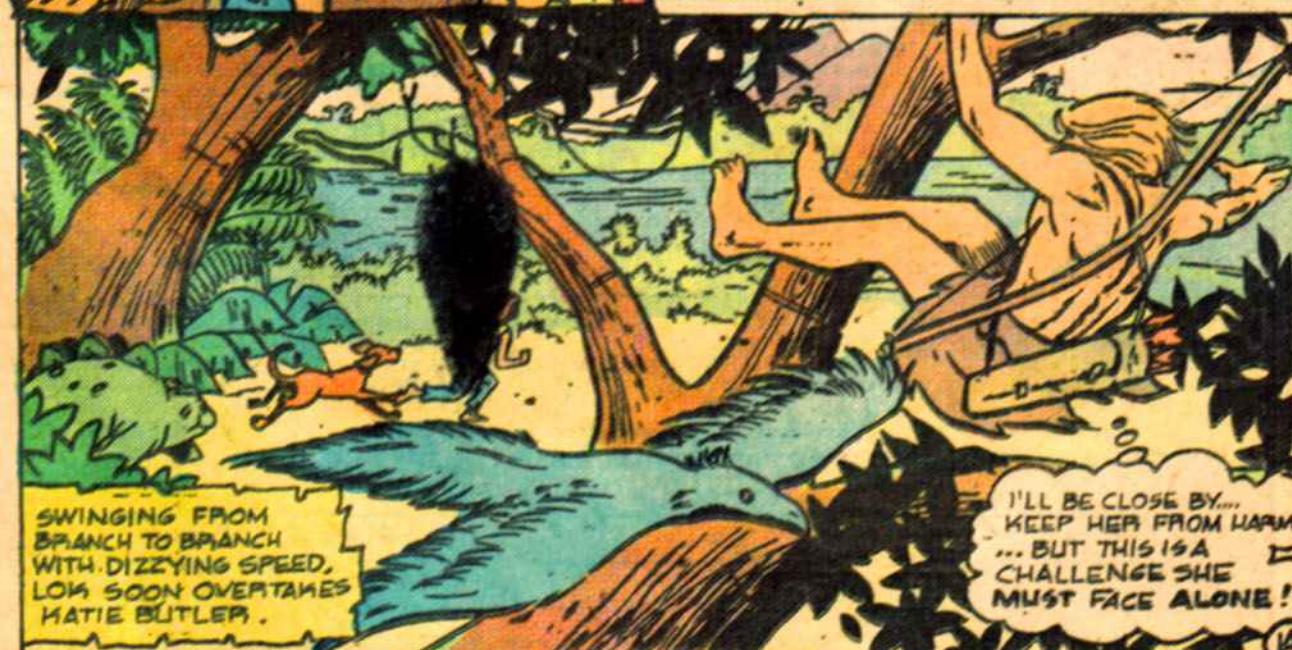
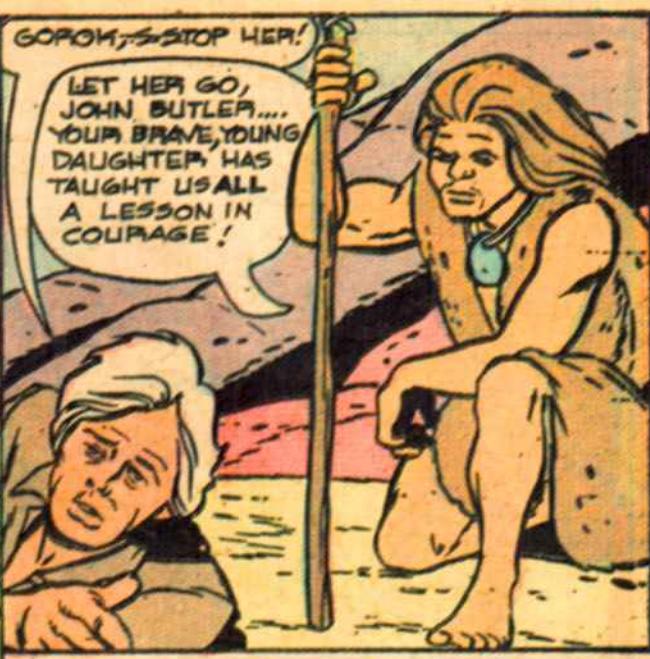
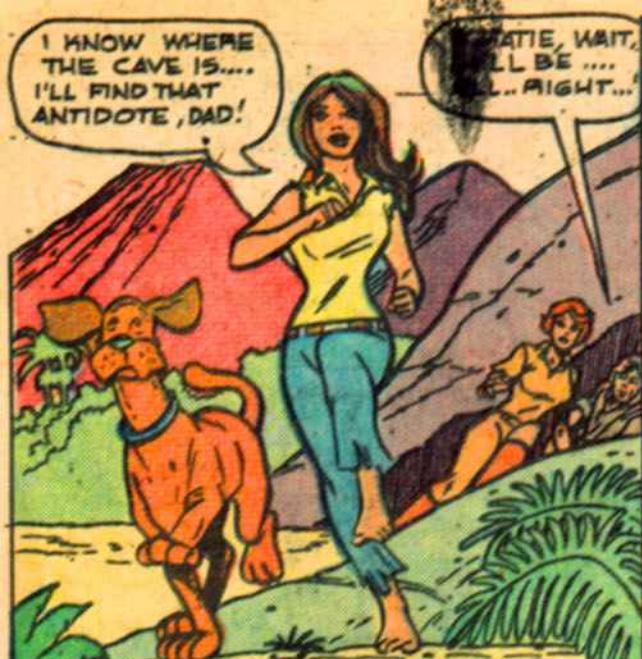


INSIDE A TRICERATOPS HORN, DEEP IN THE WIZARD'S CAVERN, IS THE ANTIDOTE TO COOL JOHN BUTLER'S BURNING FEVER.  
BUT... DOES ANYONE DARE ENTER THAT PASSAGE OF HORROR? !

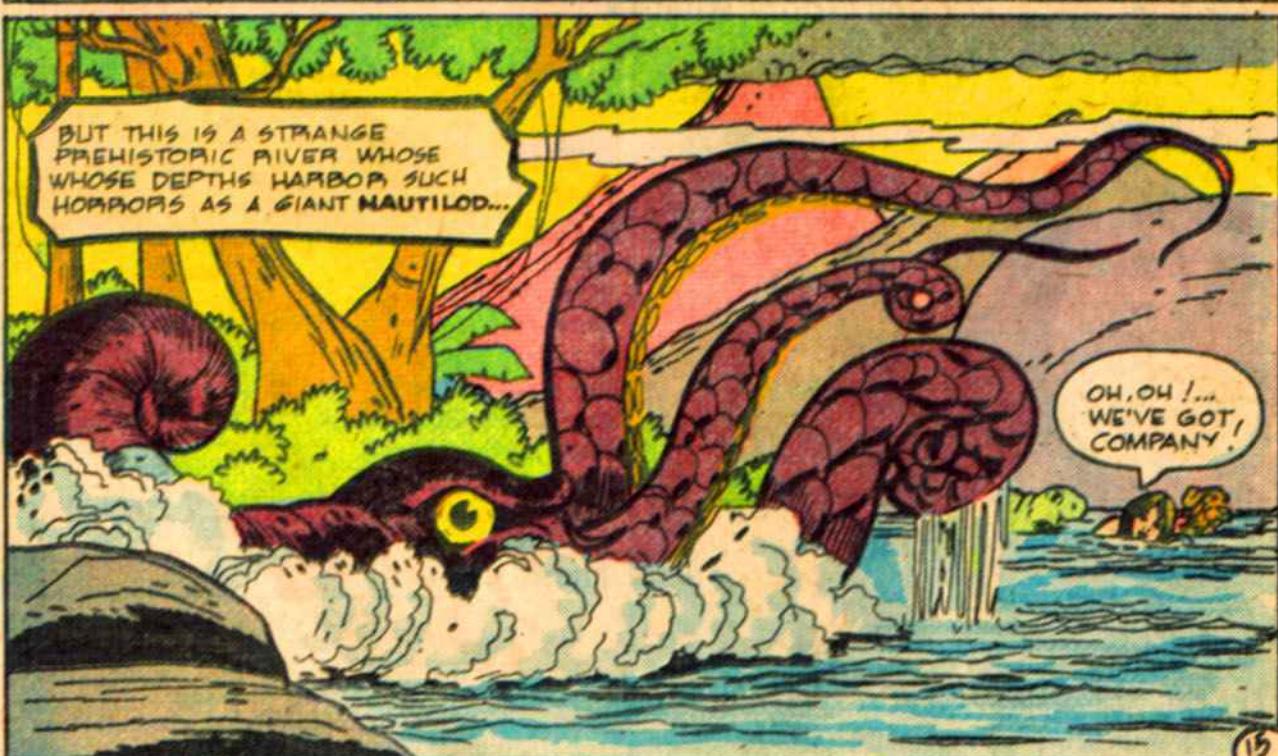
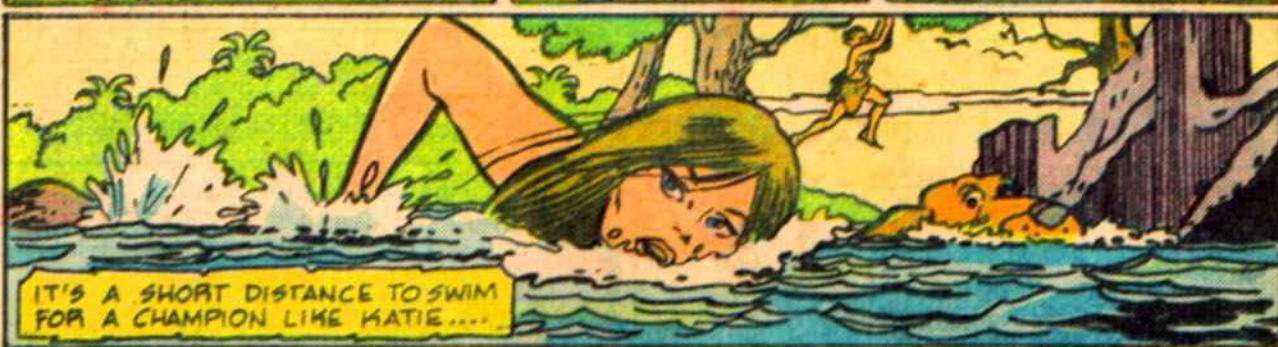
YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A CHALLENGER, MATA-ZIN....

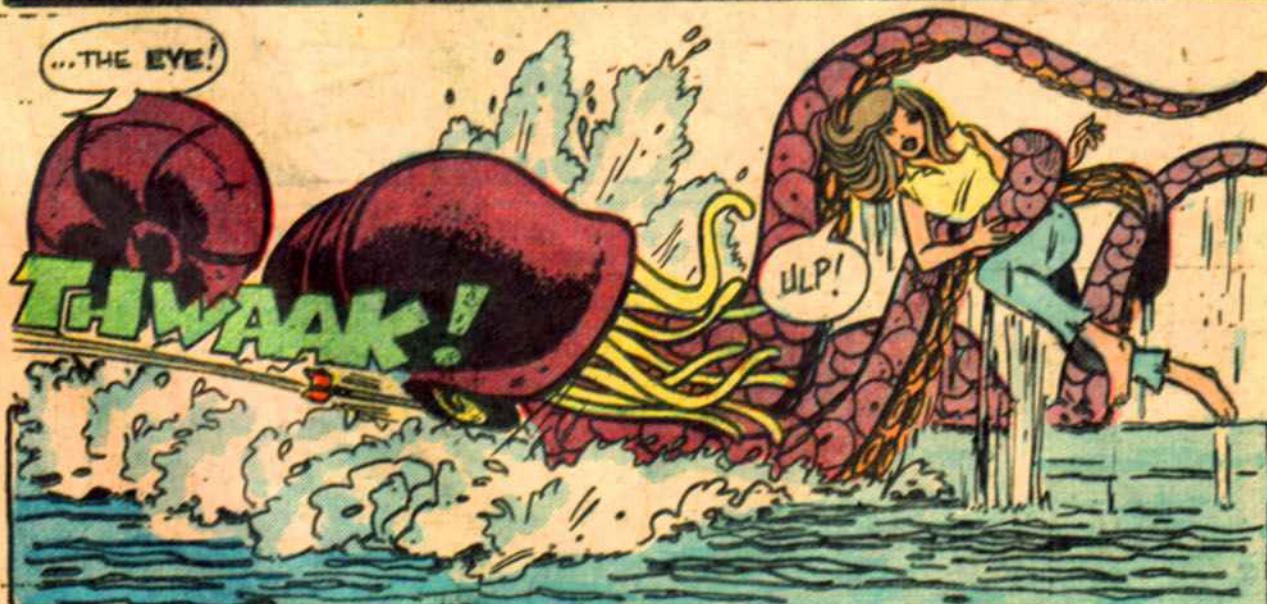
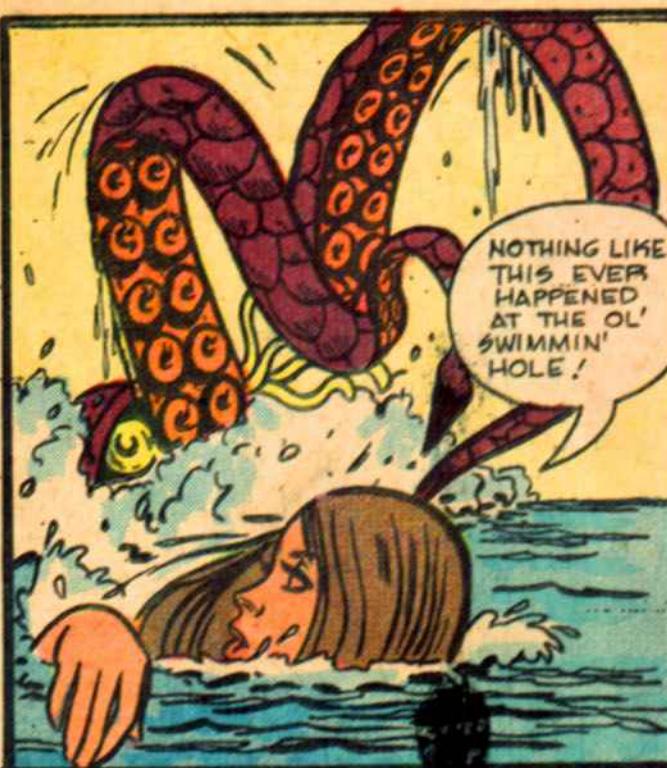
I'LL ENTER YOUR CAVE !!

N-NO, KATIE... W-WAIT !



SOON THE YOUNG GIRL AND HER TWO COMPANIONS ARRIVE AT THE WATERFALL WHICH GUARDS THE ENTRANCE TO MATA-ZIN'S CAVERN !





LOK'S SPEEDING ARROW FINDS ITS MARK JUST AS THE NAUTILOID GRABS ITS PREY WITH POWERFUL TENTACLES.



CAUTIOUSLY, THEY  
MAKE THEIR WAY  
THROUGH THE SOMBER  
LABYRINTH....

... THERE, AT THE END OF A DARK TUNNEL,  
SET IN A MACABRE DISPLAY, IS A TRICERA-  
TOPS HORN CONTAINING THE ANTIDOTE THAT  
WOULD SAVE JOHN BUTLER'S LIFE!

LOOK, YOU  
GUYS... THERE  
IT IS! THE  
ANTIDOTE!

LET'S GRAB IT  
QUICK AND **RUN**  
OUT OF HERE!

THIS IS A FINE  
TIME TO TELL ME  
YOU'RE TICKLISH!

HEE  
HEE

SUDDENLY... THE EXIT IS  
BLOCKED BY THE CAVE'S  
TWO REPTILIAN SENTINELS!

OH, NO! I FORGOT  
ABOUT THOSE  
CREEPS!

**WORF! WORF! WORF!**

DIGGER HOLDS HIS GROUND... BARKING FURIOUSLY... GIVING KATIE AND GLUMP TIME TO ESCAPE...



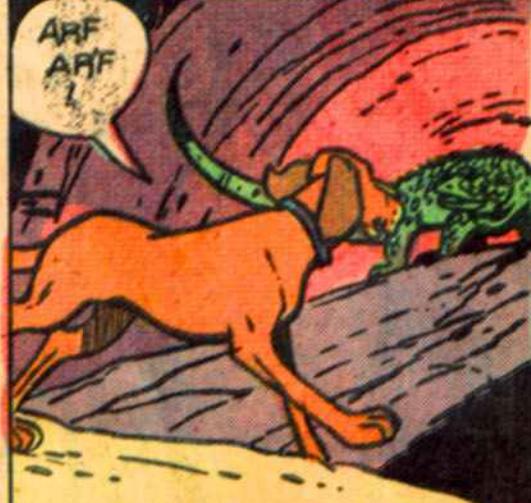
A SHARP TURN IN THE CAVEPIN... AND FROM HIS HIDEWAY IN A DARK CORNER.....

**SWAT!**

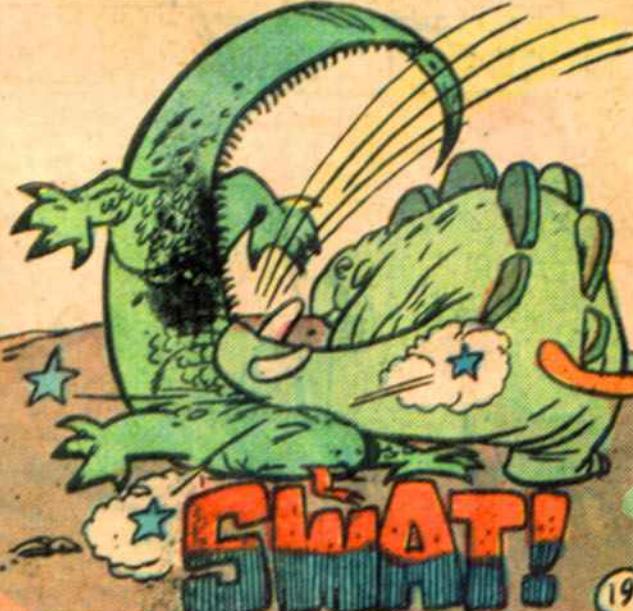
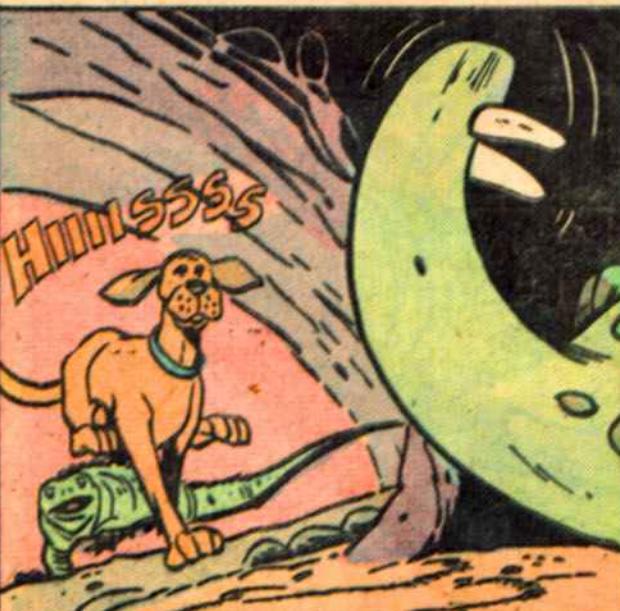
GLUMP STRIKES



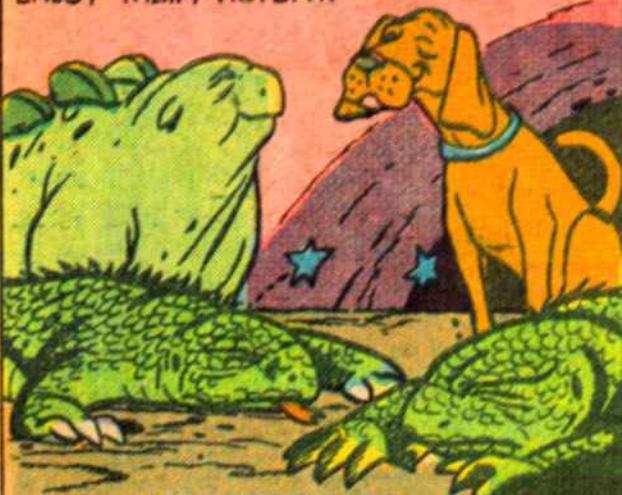
ARF ARF?



ONE DOWN, ONE TO GO... DIGGER NOW GOADS THE OTHER REPTILE INTO FOLLOWING.



THE TWO FRIENDS PAUSE A MOMENT TO ENJOY THEIR VICTORY.



MEANWHILE, LOST IN A MAZE OF ENDLESS TUNNELS, KATIE FINDS ONE DEAD-END AFTER ANOTHER.



...I... BETTER GO BACK AND FIND DIGGER AND GLUMP!

HUH?

KATIE WHIRLS AROUND, LOSES HER FOOTING ON THE SLIMEY ROCKS!

KATIE TUMBLES INTO THE DARK ABYSS, HER PLUNGE ENDS SUDDENLY AS A SILKEN NET BREAKS HER FALL.



BUT SOON THE WEAVER OF THE GIANT WEB COMES TO CLAIM ANOTHER VICTIM!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE



THE YOUNG GIRL FEELS THE DEADLY JAWS CLOSING IN, THEN .... SUDDENLY ....



LOK! JUST IN TIME



QUICKLY, KATIE CUTS ONE OF THE SILKEN ROPES....



THIS WAY, KATIE!

THE SAME WEB THAT HAD IMPRISONED HER, NOW BECOMES HER PASSAGE TO FREEDOM.

A SUDDEN BURST OF FRESH AIR, TELLS THEM THEY'VE FOUND THE EXIT TO THAT DEN OF TERROR!



WITH HATE-FILLED EYES, THE MAD WIZARD WATCHES THE GROUP AS THEY LEAVE THAT HORRID CAVE ....



SHE'S FOUND THE ANTIDOTE... BUT THEY'LL NEVER GET BACK ALIVE!

WE MUST PUSH THE ANTIDOTE TO DAD!

FOLLOW ME, KATIE, I KNOW A SHORT CUT!

